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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 /069 W
---------- 030357
R 021540Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY
SUBJECT: GOG CONFIRMS CYPRUS COUP TRIAL IN LATE SUMMER

ATHENS 4926

1. FOLLOWING PERIODIC MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ON JULY 1 ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON, OPPOSITIN LEADER GEORGE MAVROS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT PREMIER CARAMANLIS ASSURED HIM THAT THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CYPRUS COUP OF JULY 1974 WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFFER THE COMPLETION OF THE OTHER SUMMER TRIALS (E.G. THE APRIL21 COUP LEADERS, TORTURERS, THE FEBRUARY 1975 CONSPIRATORS, THE OFFICIALS CHARGED IN THE POLYTECHNION RIOTS). MAVROS' STATEMENT TO THE PRESS WAS CONFIRMED LATER BY A GOVERNMENT SOURCE WHO ADDED THAT THE CYPRUS COUP TRAIL WOULD "MOST PROBABLY" BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF THE SUMMER. MAVROS CONTINUED THAT HE BLAMED THE GOVERMENT FOR UNNECESSARILY DELAYING THE TRIAL AND GENERALLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE WAY IN WHICH IT HAS HANDLED THE WHOLE MATTER OF PROSECUTING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VARIOUS COUPS.
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2. MAVROS REMARKS PROMPTED AN OFFICIAL RETORT, ATTRIBUTED TO A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE OPPOSITION LEADER'S CRITICISMS ARE UNFOUNDED AND THAT WHAT HE SUGGESTS (I.E. THAT THE TRIAL OF THE CYPRUS COUP INSTIGATORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD EARLIER) WAS LEGALLY AND PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT. (COMMENT: WHILE THIS MINOR SQUIRMISH BETWEEN THE GOG AND MAVROS IS UNIMPORTANT, THE FIXING OF AN APPROXIMATE DATE FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL CYPRUS COUP TRAIL HAS MADE FRONT PAGE COPY IN ALL NEWSPAPERS.)

3. MAVROS' ACCOUNT OF THE REST OF HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED THAT FAMILIAR ISSUES WERE REVIEWED--GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS, GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC AND A GENERAL BRIEFING ON MAVROS' RECENT VISIT TO LONDON. KUBISCH

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